



South Mountain Corridor Study Citizens Advisory Team **DRAFT** Meeting Summary

Date: March 24, 2005
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: GRIC District 6 Komatke Center, Learning Center Meeting Hall

Attendees

Rock Argabright, Ahwatukee Foothills Chamber of Commerce
Kris Black, Ahwatukee Foothills HOA
Steve Boschen, Valley Forward
Peggy Eastburn, Estrella Village Planning Committee
Doris French, Laveen Village Planning Committee
Michael Goodman, Phx Mtns Preservation Council
Don Jones, Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce

Rudy Martinez, Ahwatukee Village Planning Committee
Wayne Nelson, GRIC District 7
Nathaniel Percharo, Pecos Road/I-10 Landowners Association
Laura Prendergast, Laveen Citizens for Responsible Development
Jim Stroger, Kyrene de los Lagos Elementary School
Dave Williams, Knight Transportation

Staff and Consultants Attending

Kevin Biesty, ADOT
Michael Bruder, ADOT
Chris Clary-Lemon, HDR
Amy Edwards, HDR
Pete Eno, ADOT
Ralph Ellis, ADOT
Theresa Gunn, GCI
John Godec, GRA
Scott Mars

Bill Hayden, ADOT
Don Herp, COP
Dan Lance, ADOT
Scott Mars, HDR
John Roberts, GRIC
Steve Thomas, ADOT
Bill Vachon, FHWA
Shannon Wilhelmsen, ADOT

Citizens

Paul Bakalis
Sara Bird-in Ground
Jeff Boehm
Lawrence Enos
David Folts

Matthew Alan Lord
Del Morago
Paul Pickett
William Ramsay

Meeting Summary: Theresa Gunn, GCI

Action Plan

Task/Activity	Who	When
Send out a weekly update of upcoming meetings and presentations	GCI	When Available
Attend next Laveen Citizens for Responsible Development Committee to provide an update on the study	HDR/ADOT	April 4, Laveen Elementary School, Building A, 7:00 pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Theresa Gunn welcomed attendees to the meeting, introduced the committee members, and provided a brief background on the formation of the South Mountain Citizen's Advisory Team (CAT). Theresa explained that comments from the public would be accepted in writing, and if possible, responses would be provided at the conclusion of the meeting.

Ms. Gunn also asked the SMCAT members to report the input they have been receiving from their communities and organizations. The following is a summary of the input received by the members.

Don Jones, Southwest Valley

- Government officials and business leaders are still saying "no" to a freeway along 99th Avenue.
- Residents within the community seem to just want the freeway.

Bill Hayden, ADOT

- Mr. Hayden reported that his office received 62 phone calls following the news articles regarding the potential GRIC vote on the freeway.

Rock Argabright, Ahwatukee

- It seems most people aren't aware of the study or have misinformation. We need better communication to general public.
- Mr. Argabright feels the traffic figures are most impressive when discussing the need for the freeway.

Peggy Eastburn, Estrella Village

- Estrella Village will be affected by all of the potential alignments in some way.

Michael Goodman, Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council

- Mr. Goodman stated it's the same position - we don't support the old alignment.

Nathaniel Percharo, Pecos Road/I-10 Landowners Association

- I-10/Pecos Landowners voted unanimously for a freeway vote and are going to the GRIC districts to discuss the potential vote.

Doris French, Laveen Village Planning Committee

- There is a lot of misinformation.
- People in the community are asking questions.
- She talked with a Dusty Lane resident who hasn't been contacted.

Laura Prendergast, Laveen Citizens for Responsible Development

- There is a historic house at Dobbins/59th (SW corner). It is a handmade stone house.

- Community would like the alternative design to include a depressed alternative
- Ms. Prendergast asked that the SMCAT consider having a working group session that is closed to the public to discuss the alternatives.

Wayne Nelson, GRIC District 7

- Mr. Nelson reported he is trying to schedule an inter-district meeting between Districts 4, 6, and 7 to discuss the freeway.
- It is probably too late to include a vote on the freeway in the May election.
- The District 6 Resolution opposing any freeway is still intact.

Jim Strogon, Kyrene Lagos Elementary School

- Mr. Strogon's community remains opposed to Pecos Road alignment.

Kris Black, Ahwatukee Foothills

- Ms. Black stated she has heard comments both for and against the freeway on Pecos Road.
- She feels there is a lack of education and information.
- Ahwatukee needs to understand how GRIC makes decisions.

Dave Williams, Knight Transportation

- Mr. Williams stated frustration over the amount of time it is taking to identify a west side alternative.
- Businesses in the area want a decision now.
- There is still a preference for the original alignment.

Steve Boschen, Valley Forward

- Need to identify a preferred alternative as soon as possible.

Project Status

Amy Edwards, HDR, explained that the police department representatives cancelled due to other emergencies.

Following are highlights from her update.

- A biology presentation was scheduled for the meeting but will be replaced with geotech presentation.
- Tonight is the beginning of the technology presentations. Presentations will be in 3 phases: 1) topics where there are not significant impacts will be summarized; 2) topics where there is some impact and interest from the community will have a short presentation; and 3) topics where there are significant impacts and interest from the members will be scheduled as a full presentation with outside experts available to answer questions.

Follow Up from Last Meeting

Amy Edwards reviewed a list of issues that were identified at the last SMCAT meeting.

DEIS Schedule

Amy reviewed a draft meeting schedule. The group discussed the potential upcoming meeting schedule. After discussion the group agreed to meet no more than 2 times per month and agreed to consider a working session closed to the public to discuss the alternatives.

CAT Member Questions/Comments:

- **Question:** When would we be voting? **Response:** Potentially in June but maybe later depending on availability of the technical information.

Water Resources

Ralph Ellis, ADOT EEG, reviewed a summary of the water resources report, Scott Mars, HDR answered technical questions and Pete Eno, ADOT Right-of-Way, discussed the process for relocation of water wells.

- After it is determined what is in the right of way, the first step is to determine if the well can be kept in place by designing around it.
- If it can't be kept in place, ADOT will identify the owners, locate a new site, pay to drill the well and the pipe to convey the water to the use.
- If it can't be replaced, ADOT would have to pay damages.

CAT Member Questions/Comments:

- **Question:** How do you account for the fluctuations in the Salt River? **Response:** We have a floodplain report with this information.
- **Question:** What happens if you can't find a replacement well? When does that decision get made? **Response:** EIS identifies impacts that need to be addressed in the final design.
- **Question:** Rio Salado Oestes and Estes extension are going to be impacted. How do you maintain water to these areas? **Response:** Identify the wells that may be impacted and do what we can to maintain the water supply.

Geotech

Amy Edwards reviewed the Geotech Report.

CAT Member Questions/Comments:

- **Comment:** There is an abandoned sand/gravel pit along Pecos and there is another around 51st -59th Avenue and Baseline.
- **Question:** How do you access impact of blasting on homes adjacent to freeway?
- **Question:** What would cause ADOT to make a decision on a vertical profile? What went into the decision in 1988 to depress the freeway in Laveen? **Response:** The

original design was 10 feet below ground level not a fully depressed freeway. This is a new study and we are starting all over with the design.

- **Question:** What about construction detours? **Response:** Would have to own the right of way for any detours. Typically don't relocate homes and buy for detours.
- **Question:** What would happen during construction if access to Pecos is eliminated?
- **Question:** What about GRIC impacts from a Pecos Road alternative? **Response:** There would be potential impacts to GRIC and they are being studied.
- **Comment:** Let's request that GRIC add a landowner to the monthly coordination team meetings.

Respond to Written Comment/Questions

The following are verbatim comments/questions submitted on Comment Forms at the March meeting.

David Folts, Concerned Families Along South Mountain Loop 202

- Which agency completes the paperwork and process of (4f) of using South Mountain Parkland for this proposed highway? Which branch and department is responsible to see this process along? **Response:** For Arizona Department of Transportation projects, FHWA has ultimate authority to deal with Historical Sites and Parks.
- What safeguards are in place if North American Indian Artifacts are found? Will there be enough time allotted to properly reclaim these items? **Response:** The process to address cultural resources includes several steps. 1) Archeologists research documentation followed by field visits to document findings. 2) The report is reviewed by all recognized tribes and federal and state agencies. 3) Additional testing is done by digging small trenches. 4) The team creates a data recovery plan and all recovered artifacts will be handled per the approved plan.
- It appears that ADOT will need more land then the additional 50 acres stated by ADOT earlier. Last week I was shown additional acreage on the west end of South Mountain Loop 202 being reserved as a right of way. How many more additional acres of South Mountain Park will be needed then previously stated? **Response:** We are still looking at alternatives to minimize impacts to the park and will report back on the impacted acreage.
- How many cubic yards of soil must be removed from South Mountain Park as to construct this highway through South Mountain Park? **Response:** The number has been calculated but is not available tonight. We will post to the website.
- Will noise levels in the classrooms at Lagos school before and after highway construction? If levels are above Federal permissible limits what action is planned? **Response:** We will ask noise author to address when the noise analysis is presented.

- Since it is very possible for South Mountain Loop 202 to be used as a bypass around Phoenix with quite a bit of the traffic being trucks, is there a more specific study taking into account such as diesel soot/diesel exhaust finding its way into Ahwatukee residents lungs for a realistic span of 15-20 years, i.e., children growing up in this neighborhood? **Response:** We will have a detailed air quality presentation when the technical report is completed.
- Was part of the decision to build South Mountain Loop 202 at or above grade along Pecos Road made to achieve better air quality standards? Does elevated or depressed highway design ever affect the air quality in the immediate area? **Response:** We will discuss this issue when we have the detailed air quality presentation.
- Who if anyone will measure the turbidity of the water as mentioned by Ralph from ADOT? How often will the water be sampled and tested? Who forwards the results to the EPA? **Response:** Turbidity of water measures cloudiness and/or sedimentation. It is tested by qualified professionals as determined by a plan to be set up between the contractor and ADOT.
- Is the Sierra Club member still a member of the SMCAT Group? **Response:** Yes. They will be appointing a replacement for Chad Campbell who is no longer able to attend the meetings.

William Ramsay

- How was the study area (red border on draft dated January 2005) determined? **Response:** We used the purpose and need to identify a geographic area. Some technical reports will look outside the study area, i.e., air quality.
- Please identify the street that constitutes the study area in Ahwatukee (running East-West). **Response:** It is approximately ½ mile North of Pecos Road.
- What requirement does ADOT and FHWA have to notify residents within the study area? **Response:** We are required to notify within study area. There are established guidelines but not specific requirements.
- Are realtors obligated to notify individuals purchasing homes within the study area of the potential impact of the proposed project? **Response:** It is common practice if a realtor has knowledge of a project, they should disclose.

Anonymous

- Why do the alternatives have to be south of Pecos? **Response:** Have looked at US60 extension to the west but didn't meeting the purpose and need of regional mobility.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, April 28, 2005